Reply to Official Action of July 10, 2008

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The present Amendment is a supplement to Applicants' Amendment of August 14, 2008, and in response to the Official Action dated July 10, 2008. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended various ones of the claims to further clarify the claimed invention, including cancelling Claims 34, 36, 38, 40, 46, 48, 50 and 52. Applicants appreciate the Examiner taking the time to discuss the present application with Applicants' undersigned attorney, and the Examiner's indication that the aforementioned amendments will place the claims in condition for allowance. In this regard, Applicants submit that for at least the same reasons presented in Applicants' Amendment of August 14, 2008, the presently amended claims are also patentably distinct from Damico.

In view of the amendments to the claims, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Application No.: 09/482,032 Amendment Dated July 24, 2009

Reply to Official Action of July 10, 2008

## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. As such, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested. In order to expedite the examination of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in order to resolve any remaining issues.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew T. Spence

Registration No. 45,699

Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP

Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000 Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111 LEGAL01/13109749v2

ELECTRONICALLY FILED USING THE EFS-WEB ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE ON JULY 24, 2009.